



# Native Agri Update

No. 291 , September 2009

www.indianag.on.ca

Published by  
INDIAN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM OF ONTARIO

## From The Manager's Desk

By D.E. "Ted" Young, General Manager  
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### LOUISE HILL APPOINTED TO IAPO BOARD

Louise Hill of Six Nations in the Brantford District was appointed to the IAPO Board of Directors effective August 18, 2009 at the regular Board Meeting held at the University of Guelph campus. The appointment is effective until the Annual General Meeting scheduled for April of 2010. If ratified by the Board, at that time, her appointment will be effective then for a two year term.

Mrs. Hill is a Mohawk woman, a member of the Bear Clan and was born and raised on the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. Her parents were traditional and spoke Cayuga at all times. Louise's language includes Cayuga, Onondaga, and a comprehension of Mohawk, Seneca, and Oneida.

Her farming background includes raising Hereford cattle, cash cropping, and vegetable gardening. She has attended

traditional ceremonies on a regular basis over the years. This has taught her the value of mother earth and the importance of seeds. She has also grown white and flint corn for ceremonial purposes.

Louise married Donald Hill in July 1963 and raised two boys and two girls while farming as her family had done in the past.

In 1969 she established Hill's Native Foods. The operation consisted of planting the corn to the final development of completed corn products of lyed corn and cornbread. This continued as a family business and is now operated by son Scott Hill and his family. Presently, cattle are still raised on a small basis and a flower and vegetable garden is maintained.

In 1988 Louise completed her studies to obtain her education qualifications as a teacher. She taught Cayuga immersion for several years and then assumed the role of Principal of Cayuga Immersion School and Principal of the grades seven and eight before her retirement in June of 2007.

Louise feels that agriculture is native to the Iroquois people and a very important component of her culture as Hordennoshonee ceremonies revolve around the seasons. She feels that, " it is important that we maintain and enhance these critical parts of our traditions".



## Table of Contents

From The Manager's Desk	
Page .....	1
Agribusiness	
Page .....	2
Calendar of Events	
Page .....	2
Crop Information	
Page .....	3
Livestock Information	
Page .....	4
Market Information	
Page .....	5
Other News	
Page .....	6

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### *From the Manager's Desk...cont'd*

Hordennoshonee means "builders" which in her view translates to continuing the traditions of farming and the utilization of the best supports that are available including technology and funding.

IAPO is pleased to have Mrs. Hill representing the Brantford district as one of two representatives for that jurisdiction. With her long standing background in farming and agriculture, the IAPO Board and clients we serve will clearly benefit from this unique experience and history.

One further opening exists in this district for anyone interested to join the Board and who can meet the required criteria.

**Anyone interested in that opportunity is invited to contact the Chairman of the Board William J. Brant or the General Manger Ted Young.**

## *Agribusiness*

Submitted by **Jim Hunter, Secretary-Treasurer FNA/SNFA**  
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### **SIX NATIONS FARMERS ASSOCIATION (SNFA)**

At a recently held BBQ and General meeting, I was pleasantly surprised to be given a lovely original Iroquois stone sculpture by the members of the Association. As I read in their card, I understand that the "Masks", as depicted on many of the carvings, are of Guardians and used as Good Medicines for the Iroquois People. Because these masks are believed to chase away evil and sickness, I will treat my sculpture with the utmost respect in every sense as I retire. Thank you to the members for their kindness.

This gift was in regards to my pending retirement as their Secretary-Treasurer. Chairman Ralph Sowden, reported that Ruby Jacobs has been chosen from several applicants for the vacant position. Ruby has considerable administrative ex-

perience from working at Six Nations Health Services. Ruby is very familiar with scheduling, preparing minutes, agendas, circulating backup information and organizing many events. Also, she has written many proposals, monitored and communicated with Band Council, Provincial/Federal governments and agency partners and is well qualified to handle the position.

Ruby will begin the Secretary duties after September 1<sup>st</sup> and I will complete the Treasurer's role on December 31<sup>st</sup> (after year end). I have enjoyed this role and I hope that in some small way, I have made the members more successful by saving them money in their input costs. I wish the Association and its members every success in the future.



From September 15 – 17<sup>th</sup>, many of the SNFA members will be attending the Canada Outdoor Farm Show (COFS) in Woodstock. For the last eight years, approximately 32 First Nations farmers and IAPO staff members have been annually attending this premier outdoor agricultural showcase. COFS continues to be "Canada's Largest Agricultural Trade Show" and there is a full program of events and demonstrations for visitors to investigate.

## *Calendar of Events*

Sept 15-17      Canada's Outdoor Farm Show 2009  
Canada's Outdoor Park, Woodstock, Ontario

Sept 22-26      2009 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo  
Earlton, Ontario, District of Temiskaming

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR AGRICULTURAL EVENTS IN YOUR AREA  
Please contact us if you have an item for the Calendar of Events

### **Chipper Chirp**



*"Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness."*

...Letter from Thomas Jefferson to George Washington (1787)

# Crop Information

By Peter Jay Lanthier, Farm Management Advisor

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## WINTER WHEAT BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

With the challenges many growers faced producing a high yielding good quality winter wheat crop in 2009 it would seem to be a good time to review some of the more important aspects of best management practices for winter wheat production.

**Conventional vs. No-Till Wheat:** Fields that were planted last fall using true no-till drills did not seem to over-winter as well as fields with some sort of tillage. Tillage could mean cultivation or drills outfitted with heavy duty coulters or coulters caddies. Even fields that were worked wet seemed to do better. It all relates to early seedling root establishment.

**Seed Placement:** Last year's soys were growthy and the trash was wet. This resulted in hair pinning in no-till because the openers couldn't slice through the trash. Hair pinning leaves the seed stranded in airspace. Germination can be low and uneven.

**Soil Temp:** Bare soil will be warmer than covered. Working the ground encourages root growth. Even no-till drills that work soil in small strips ahead of the openers warm and loosen the soil. Well anchored wheat plants survive better over winter. The other advantage of tillage ahead of wheat is red clover establishment. Clover does better on tilled ground. No-till drills do a great job under normal circumstances, but there are times when a little tillage goes a long way.

**Planting dates:** The seeding date for winter wheat is often determined by the date of soybean harvest. This can delay optimal planting dates for winter wheat resulting in reduced yields. The optimal planting dates vary depending on location as listed in OMAFRA Publication 811 Agronomy Guide for Field Crops. However if you have summer fallowed, or can harvest beans early wheat responds very well to early planting late September and early October.

**Winter Wheat Seeding Rates:** The Ontario Cereal Trials are seeded at 400 seeds/m<sup>2</sup>. That, theoretically, gives 22 seeds/foot (7" rows) of row. With 85% germination, that is a theoretical stand of 18.7 plants per foot (never happens). Note: Many agronomists agree that in the spring any stand with seven-eight plants/foot of row is good enough to keep. We

over-seed soys to get a final stand; seeding soys at 200,000 to get 140,000 viable plants. We over-seed wheat to a greater level to get a good stand. When reducing seeding rates, the plant compensates by producing more tillers. These tillers will pollinate later than the main stem. When you reduce seeding rate significantly, you are increasing the probability of Fusarium since you are lengthening the pollination time. Wheat stands can be thin where compaction is an issue. Consider double seeding any areas where there is compaction such as the headland where there is a lot of traffic.

**Winter Wheat Variety Selection:** The Ontario Cereal trials have been published for 2009. Certified seed trial results allow a producer to select the variety best suited to their needs and demands; winter survival, lodging, height, maturity, and disease resistance and of course test weight. Hard red wheat is known to perform best on your most productive/fertile land, provide better lodging resistance than most soft reds, has increased sprouting tolerance, and protein premiums are available. Soft red wheat will perform well on all soil types, has improved fusarium and disease resistance over soft white wheats and provides superior winter hardiness. It is important to review variety trials with your seed dealer to know which variety is best for your fields and in your area.

## WILL CORN AND SOYBEAN CROPS MAKE IT?



So will we have enough warm weather remaining this summer to make a crop? Corn takes 50 to 60 days to mature to black layer; as much as 70 days in cooler weather.

The stage most corn is in on First Nation land throughout Ontario is advanced enough that black layer should be reached in the first few days to a week into October. Soybeans on reserves in Southwestern Ontario are well advanced for the most part; R4 to R5 (3/4 pod development to full pod development). A few more weeks and most of the crop will be at R7 stage, when pods begin to show a brown or tan colour and yield is mostly assured.

Soybeans are much more susceptible to frost. If a frost occurs at R6 growth stage then yield and quality will be affected. Corn on the other hand can lose the top 2-3 leaves to frost and not have yield affected at all. If the leaf tissue around the ear remains green the plant will continue to feed the ear.

# Livestock Information

By Mark Leahy, Farm Management Advisor-  
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## WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE BEEF MARKET?

According to Statistics Canada's July 1 report, cattle numbers are down 2.3 per cent compared to a year ago. Cattle slaughter in the first 6 months of this year was down almost seven per cent from the same period in 2008.

Usually when cattle numbers and processing are declining cattle prices including fed cattle, calves, cull cows and bulls are increasing. What is happening?

There are three major factors impacting cattle and beef prices in Canada.

- The Canadian loonie is closer to the U.S.\$ discouraging exports to the US
- The consumer is buying less beef particularly higher priced steaks and roasts because of tough economic times.
- The US COOL (Country of Origin Labeling) program has resulted in a large reduction of calves and fed cattle shipped to the US. Slaughter cattle and calf export numbers are down about 17%, feeder cattle and calves are down nearly 47% for the same six month period. Of interest, only cull cow export numbers are up at over 3%.

We continue to see less beef cycle influence and more outside impact on beef and cattle prices.

## WHAT'S THE PLAN?

Thousands of calves are going to market in Ontario this fall. It is time again to review our marketing plan. Bottom line is we need to meet buyer demand to maximize our returns. This rarely

happens when we sell at home.

**Where to start?**

**Target** a quality stocker sale. Many livestock auction barns hold good stocker sales each fall. Some sales are sponsored by local county cattlemen's associations. Brussels, Keady, Ontario Stockyards, Kitchener, Kawartha, Hoards Station and Ottawa are some of the larger sales. Wiky producers have been selling at a Brussels sale in late November. Tyendinaga producers often sell at a Quinte Cattlemen's Stocker Sale in October or November or hold calves until a late January sale. Akwesasne producers sell at one of the Ottawa sales. These sales attract many buyers looking for quality packaged calves.

**Vaccinate** based on your local vets recommendations. This includes a four or five way vaccine. This is the most important thing an owner can do to add value. Many sales are promoted as vaccinated sales meaning all calves must be treated. With a modified live vaccine, needle at least two weeks before sale date. A killed vaccine requires a shot at least a month before sale and a booster two weeks after the first shot. Vaccinating at a time when calves are less stressed increases the chance of building up immunities. Avoid weaning and vaccinating at the same time if possible.

**Wean** calves three-five weeks before trucking. This reduces stress at trucking time. Again try to avoid weaning and vaccinating at the same time. Too much stress!

**Castrate and dehorn** any calves not done earlier, at least three weeks before sale date.

## ALSO CONSIDER...

**Age verifying** your calves. Age verifying calves provides feedlot buyers and slaughter plants with at least a born after date. Some export markets buy beef only from countries that can verify the animals age at slaughter. IAPO can provide you with details on age verifying calves. We can age verify for you.

**Co-mingling herds** when numbers are small. This means mix and matching your calves with your neighbours. Buyers like large uniform groups. Combining calves with your neighbours can pay dividends. Some stocker sales promote their own co-mingling program.

## WHAT IS CO-MINGLING?



A few fall stocker sales offer co-mingling for producers as a means to increase income.

As an example five owners have ten calves each. Normally each owner's calves are separated into steers and heifers and then by weight and perhaps colour. One owner might sell in four or five groups with at least one single animal perhaps larger or smaller than the rest. Buyers are often not interested in bidding on singles and even groups of two or three.

With co-mingling, the 50 calves from the five owners are considered as one group and separated into smaller groups as indicated. However, now instead of five groups of one to three animals there are five groups of 8 to 12 animals.

Each animal is weighed individually before mixing with the other calves in the sale group. In this way weights are maintained for each individual owner. Keep in mind that co-mingling is done by experienced staff at the sale barn.

# Market Information

## BEEF MARKET

By Mark Leahy



**Ontario  
Cattlemen's  
Association**  
*Committed to Cattlemen*

Prices are courtesy of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association Weekly Market Information Report for the week ending September 3/09.

All cattle categories have taken a fall since last month!

Fed cattle are down \$9-\$12, rail grade steers are off by \$12.

Cows are down \$8 and bulls by \$5.

Feedlot replacement steers have dropped \$12-\$15 depending on weight. Heifers are off \$6-\$14 again depending on weight. Interestingly steer prices are stronger than last week.

*Note: Anyone interested in receiving a weekly market report can do so by calling OCA at 1-866-370-2333. The report is available by email or regular mailbox.*

All prices are on a hundred pound basis (cwt)

Category	Price Range	Ave. Price	Top Price
Rail Steers	147-152		
Fed steers	83 - 93	88	103
Fed heifers	80- 90	85	97
Cows	34 - 49	41	77
Bulls	49- 65	57	86
Stocker steers			
700 - 799	91 - 107	100	113
600 - 699	87 - 111	102	119
500 - 599	88 - 119	107	132
Stocker heifers			
700 - 799	86 - 98	92	103
600 - 699	84 - 99	93	104
500 - 599	84-107	96	125

## CROP MARKET

By Peter Lanthier




Seasonally, this is a stagnant time for Wall Street, which doesn't bode well for grain prices as we head into what may be a record harvest. The key driver for the bearish market trends is the expectation of large US crops causing a weakening of the market fundamentals; supply and demand. The recent slide in grain prices continues to weigh heavy on traders' minds. Those producers with some price protection built into their selling strategy are feeling pretty good about their decisions now with the recent price slide.

Talk of frost potential and Chinese bean cancellations will be supportive along with the northern Chinese drought. Grain market direction will likely continue to come from weather forecasts, China weather and soybean news, U.S. and world economic reports, outside markets (crude oil, gold etc.). The USDA crop progress and condi-

tion report released September 9<sup>th</sup> held a few interesting points for traders to ponder. The report stated that the U.S. corn crop is 86 percent at the dough stage, while 50 percent has reached the dent stage. Normally 75 percent of the crop would be in the dent stage by this time. Eight percent of the crop is mature and safe from a frost, compared to the five-year average of 23%.

Trade chatter continues regarding the arrival of the first frost, with this year's

crops delayed at historical levels. Commodity Weather Group notes that the current weather pattern would make a frost during the remainder of this month unlikely. In fact, it notes that a later-than-normal frost is looking increasingly likely for many areas. USDA reports that 7% of the nation's soybean crop was dropping leaves as of Sunday, down from the five-year average pace of 18%. This year's slow pace matches '92 and '97 for the slowest on record.

CORN-Monday, September 10, 2009: (NORFOLK)				
	2009	Futures 3.15	Basis 0.30	Price 3.45
	2010	Futures 3.66	Basis 0.15	Price 3.81
SOYBEANS-Monday, September 10, 2009: (NORFOLK)				
	2009	Futures 9.27	Basis 0.00	Price 9.27
	2010	Futures 9.11	Basis - 0.25	Price 8.86
SOFT RED WHEAT-Monday, September 10, 2009: (NORFOLK)				
	2009	Futures 4.59	Basis - 1.03	Price 3.54

# Other News

By Doug Macpherson, Consultant

***“BEST CONFERENCE I HAVE ATTENDED IN A LONG TIME!”***

The Ontario First Nations Agri-Food Conference held on August 19- 20, 2009 was a great success. The event attracted 160 delegates representing 16 First Nation Territories and five provinces. The conference enjoyed significant support from government and industry. Ninety-eight percent of participants completing the evaluations indicated that the program met or exceeded their expectations and would welcome the opportunity to attend a similar event in the next one to five years!



**We Ate!**



**We Toured!**



**We Learned!**



**We Celebrated!**



Do you have photos you took at the conference to share?

We'd love to have them for our Conference Album.

Please e-mail them to us at [iapo-lambeth@on.aibn.com](mailto:iapo-lambeth@on.aibn.com)

Thanks to the informative speakers, educational displays, Best Western Hotel, University of Guelph and our many government and industry supporters!

Most of all, thanks to the conference delegates. You were a great group.

*Conference presentations will be available for viewing at our LAPO website at [www.indianag.on.ca](http://www.indianag.on.ca)*